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Let us have coined defined.—New York Advertiser. Let us have coin, defined or undefined.

We must have money.—New Postage Gazette.
A motion to make the matter unanimous will be entertained.

"In some places people are chopping up snakes for fuel," remarks the Pittsburg Press. In others they are mixing them up with their drinks.

Georgia and South Carolina are quarreling about which raised the largest hog. Why doesn't Congress tackle some question of real interest like this?

Mammoth coalers built to take cargoes around Cape Horn to Pacific ports are being built, and one is already afloat. Enterprise cannot afford to wait too long for interoceanic canals.

According to the report of a Chicago society there are 60,000 people in that city who are confirmed victims of opium. These are evidently the ones who took Chicago's last census, says the New York Press.

A certain merchant is cackling in Chicago over his corner of the egg market. He claims to have driven the price of the hen product to 35 cents per dozen in New York. A sudden thaw may spoil his profits and afford handy missiles against cold-blooded calculators.

Judge Roger A. Pryor, one of the Democratic Judges in New York City, refused to naturalize two men last week because they could not speak English, and announced that no foreigner who had not learned something of that language during his five years' residence in this country need apply to him for naturalization.

In one of its latest decisions the Supreme Court declares that negligence as a cause of action against a railroad company must be proven, and that the finding of the body of a man on the tracks does not create a presumption that he came there by reason of the company's negligence. This ruling will have a far-reaching effect upon damage suits brought against railroad companies for injuries received on their property. The assumption will be made that the tracks were amply guarded, and the plaintiff will be compelled to prove his point and show by evidence that they were not. It is notorious that the law regarding protection at railroad crossings is constantly and flagrantly violated. When, however, the victim to this negligence has been killed it becomes almost impossible to bring witnesses to the fact of violation at the particular time.

The worm has turned. The biter has been bitten. Let the unusual fact be duly recorded. A few days ago Farmer John Sheffield, of Manchester Cross Roads, N. Y., received a mysterious circular letter inviting him to go to New York City and buy "green goods." He went. He was taken in tow by a "green goods" operator as soon as he reached the town and was steered into a den in an obscure hotel, where he met two other men who had money to sell at cut rates. These gentlemen showed him \$1,000 in crisp new bank notes, and assured him that he could have the bundle for \$300 spot cash. Whereupon Farmer Sheffield, while examining the alleged counterfeits, hastily gathered in the pile, planked down \$200 in payment and pocketed his purchase. The three swindlers made a united rush upon him, and in just ten seconds he had pummeled all of his assailants into insensibility and sauntered out of the place humming, "This is the way I long have sought and mourned because I found it not." Farmer Sheffield reported the occurrence to the New York police, and is held to await the appearance of some one to lodge a complaint against him. Let him go—and give him medal for being the only man who ever beat a gang of New York sharpers at their own game. The Sheffield currency game is a daisy.

In the death of Isaac Pusey Gray the State of Indiana and the field of American politics lose a most familiar and interesting figure. During a lifetime which was filled with activity and useful work, he held and discharged acceptably a number of posts from which he often seemed prepared to step into the coveted office of the Presidency. His public career began with the civil war, when he assumed command of one of the Indiana regiments. After the war he became President of the Indiana Senate, being elected as a Republican. It was not until seven years after quitting the battlefield that he joined the Democratic party, in which he figured so prominently. During his terms in the Governorship of Indiana he acquired the prominence which made him a "Presidential possibility," but for some reason due either to the man himself or the destiny which orders the affairs of politics his career never brought him higher than a State position. It was in recognition of good and faithful services that President Cleveland made him Minister to Mexico, but it would seem that the limitations of the man confined him to a career in which he could do valuable work as a State leader, but could not break out into the larger field of national politics.

Connecticut has a horse that eats pie. This is somewhat remarkable, although it has long been known that an intimate relation existed between pies and nightmares.

From the length of time which the Sultan's commission is demanding for the investigation of the Armenian butcheries the commission must be experiencing considerable difficulties in deciding the indemnity the Armenians ought to pay for being butchered.

The Elbe disaster has found its way into the German reichstag, where the government representatives in debate warmly defended the steamship company while the Socialists bitterly attacked it, saying that the discipline on the ship was bad and the water-tight compartments anything but water-tight. Most unreasonable fellows, those Socialists. They don't seem to understand that the primary purpose of a steamship company is to make money and they really cling to the idea that such a corporation owes some duty to the people who travel in its iron coffins.

While the pungent paragraphs are inveighing against the ten-acre theater hat, they should aim a few shafts of sarcasm at the thirsty members of the male persuasion who slide out between acts to "see a man," and return with a breath that causes those sitting near them to imagine that the opera house has suddenly been metamorphosed into a distillery or a gin fizz factory. There is also the sweet scented masher who is always nudging any attractive young lady who happens to occupy the next seat. There are just as disagreeable things in theaters as the overgrown hat.

Bravo, Baudelon! So long as there are ships and machinery, cylinders, cranks, piston rods, shafts or rudders will give out at some time; and if this time happens to coincide with the occurrence of a hurricane, then are gathered together the conditions of a great calamity. Out of the night, the storm, the awful sea, the crippled ship, have come all those chronicles of calamity that freeze the blood in the old shipwreck stories. In such a case the one hope is a hero. All depends upon a man. If the right man is there all will go well, though the way be through gloom, danger and doubt. If the right man is not there, if one of the feeble brethren is in his place, that is the end of the story of that ship. The man must be one of stout heart and cool head; undismayed by danger and unshaken by the sense of his enormous responsibility; skilled in trouble and in the ways to meet it. For such a man great critical occasions are after all only opportunities. Baudelon was the man for the occasion in the Gasconne's great battle, and so we say, Well done, Baudelon! Lucky fellow to have such a chance; lucky company to have such an officer, and lucky passengers to be in the hands of a captain who knew what to do and how to do it.

A PRIZE WINNER.

Benton, Great Britain's Champion Heifer.

Here is the heifer that won the champion plate at the London cattle show. The English ideal in the way of a roast beef producer is to breed cattle that shall be as nearly as possible composed entirely of meat with a minimum quantity of bone. The champion heifer is described as being of the Aberdeen-Angus breed. Her name is Benton.



THE CHAMPION HEIFER.

Bride, and she was bred by Clement Stephenson, of Sandyford villa, Newcastle-on-Tyne. The heifer has won, besides the champion plate at the London cattle show, the special challenge cup conferred by Queen Victoria, the president's prize at the Birmingham fat stock show, and the Thorley and Elkington cups, as well as many other minor prizes.

A Fakir's Ingenuity.

Enormous business has been done lately at French fairs by a man who professed to sell a rat powder that was perfectly harmless and that struck rats dead on the spot. In order to convince the skeptical the man, first of all, powdered a slice of bread with the stuff, and ate a piece of it himself. Then he put the remainder under a glass case, in which a rat was kept in captivity. The rat went to eat the bread and instantly fell dead. At 5 pence a box the powder went off like hot rolls, and the lucky proprietor of the specific was in a fair way to make a fortune. But the police, who in France are very active in protecting the people from a fraud, looked into the matter and found that the powder was nothing but ordinary sugar. They also discovered that the case was connected with a powerful electric battery, and the moment the rat touched the bread the current was turned on, and it was thus his death was brought about. The man was arrested at the fair of Albi, and he has been sentenced to fifteen days' imprisonment.

Some Valuable Real Estate.

Corner lots on Fleet street, Piccadilly, and other desirable business locations in London are worth \$100,000 a front foot.

Nothing will so surely make a fool of a man as an amateur show. Or a woman, either.

FIRST UNITED STATES COINS.

A Brief Illustrated Sketch of the Origin of Our National Specie.

The United States mint was established and the money of account and a national coinage authorized by act of Congress of April 2, 1792. On July 31, 1792, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon, the "foundation stone" was laid for the first United States mint building by David Rittenhouse, the first director of



CHAIN CENT.

the mint. The building stands at No. 29 North 7th street, between Market and Arch streets, Philadelphia, and was completed on Friday, Sept. 7, 1792. On the following Tuesday, Sept. 11, the first purchase of metal was made, consisting of six pounds of old copper at 1s 3d per pound.

In October, 1792, three presses were put in and President Washington, in his annual message to Congress of Nov. 9, 1792, says: "There has also been a small beginning in the coinage of half-dimes; the want of small coins in circulation calling the first attention to them." This piece has on the obverse a female bust, emblematic of liberty, and it is stated that Martha Washington sat to the artist while he was designing it. The silver from which it was struck was furnished by Washington from his private plate. Only a small number were coined, and it has now become one of the rare coins of America, but being unauthorized cannot be classed in the national series.

There appears to have been nothing more done at the mint in 1792, and the year 1793 was devoted to experimenting on the copper coinage. The cent and half cent made their first appearance this year, the former in a number of designs, but the issue of all was very small and all are rare. The year 1794 saw a very much larger issue of copper coins, and as the dies became worn out or broken, new ones were engraved to take the place of the same general design, but differing in details. Fifty-six varieties of 1794 cents have been discovered, showing a gradual transition from the type of 1793 to that found on the cent of 1795. The year 1794 witnessed the beginning of our regular national silver coinage, which was continued without intermission for 100 years, some one or more denominations having been issued every year. On July 18, the Bank of Maryland deposited in the mint a lot of French silver coins, valued at \$8,715.73½, and the first silver dollars were delivered at the treasury on Oct. 15, 1794, over 100 years ago. The number coined was 1,768, and they are now exceedingly valuable. They were designed by Robert Scot, first engraver of the treasury, and weighed 412½ grains, nine-tenths



FIRST SILVER DOLLAR.

pure silver. Half dollars and half dimes were also coined this year. The quarter dollar and the dime did not appear till 1796.

GEORGE WALLACE JONES.

Resides at Dubuque and is the Oldest Living Ex-United States Senator.

Gen. George Wallace Jones, of Dubuque, Iowa, is the oldest living ex-United States Senator. Recently he celebrated his 90th birthday. He was born in Vincennes, Ind., April 12, 1804. His father, John Rice Jones, was born in Merionethshire, Wales, in 1765, took three diplomas from Oxford University, and graduated from its law department. He practiced law in London, and coming to America located in Philadelphia, upon the invitation of Benjamin Franklin, who was a close friend. He removed to Louisville, Ky., thence to Vincennes, where he was the first lawyer to practice.

Here his son, George Wallace, was born. He entered Transylvania University, Lexington, Ky., in 1821, and while there served as sergeant of Gen. Jackson's body guard on that hero's march from Tennessee to Washington in 1823, and did similar service for the Marquis de Lafayette the next year. He served during the Black Hawk war as a soldier, was made a general, and, in 1848, elected United States Senator. When his term expired President Buchanan appointed him Minister to Colombia, from which he was recalled for alleged treasonable correspondence with Jefferson Davis at the outbreak of the civil war.

Gen. Jones has figured as principal or second in seven duels, the most interesting of which was the affair of honor between Jonathan Cilley, of Maine, and William J. Graves, of Kentucky, in 1838, which arose from political differences. Jones was Cilley's second. The weapons were rifles, and each man fired three times. At the last Cilley fell wounded to death. The General was the last delegate to Con-

gress from the Territory of Michigan and delegate from Wisconsin from 1835 to 1839, commanded the militia of Wisconsin for a time, and for three years was its chief justice. To George Wallace Jones belongs the distinction of naming the Territories of Wisconsin and Iowa.

Gen. Jones has known intimately most of the prominent men of the country. He was a Chesterfield in politeness and very popular. He was a classmate at college of Jefferson Davis and Zachary Taylor; in Congress he was a friend of John Quincy Adams, Andrew Jackson, John C. Fremont, Martin Van Buren and Franklin Pierce; he was the partner in business enterprises of Daniel Webster; the colleague in the House of James K. Polk, John Bell, Abraham Lincoln, and in the Senate of Thomas H. Benton, Charles Sumner, Stephen A. Douglas, William H. Seward and James Buchanan.

THE HOOSIER POET.

James Whitcomb Riley Was Once a Farmer Boy—His Poetic Genius.

The tone of James Whitcomb Riley's poetry tells for itself that he was once a farmer boy. His father's home was in the old farming town of Greenfield, Ind., and there the lad grew up in the midst of sweet, healthy country life, although the poet is apt to confess with a merry twinkle in his eye that he was of little use in farming, yet, as he adds, "My father used to press us boys into the service in corn-planting time and we went very loathfully, at least, I did." He tells frankly, too, that he was no scholar, for, as he confesses, "At 16 I could not repeat the simplest school-boy speech without breaking down and rather than undertake it I deliberately chose to take a whipping."

After leaving school, says Farm and



JAMES WHITCOMB RILEY.

Home, he began to write for local papers and his first appearance in print was made in the Kokomo Tribune, where a number of his dialect poems were published under the name of John C. Walker. It was not until the appearance of Leonale, which he gave to the world as a newly discovered poem of Edgar Allan Poe's, that Riley's work began to obtain recognition in literary circles. Then came a little volume of dialect poems, which were professedly by B. F. Johnson of Boon, and following it there appeared The Boss Girl, Afterwhiles, Pipes o' Pan and a handful of the sweetest poems under the taking title Old-fashioned Roses.

Mr. Riley is a hard worker and prefers the unreasonable hours of night for his labor. He is a warm-hearted, genial, companionable man and in his versatility and mastery of the faulty every-day language of his countrymen, he never had an equal. His thoughts are chaste and the human sympathy and pure purpose that runs through his song is the true index of the man and will be his best and most lasting eulogy.

Production and Cost of Aluminum. Concerning the amount produced and the cost of producing aluminum, the London Grocers' Review says:

"The production of aluminum increased from 50 tons in 1890 to 2,000 tons in 1892, and the price has diminished in proportion. It was 60s per pound in 1886, 20s in 1889, and now it is about 1s 7d. When it is considered that a pound of aluminum is so much bigger than a pound of other metals—bulk for bulk, it weighs about one-third of ordinary metals—this price cannot be called high. No aluminum is produced in England now. Two companies were started in 1886-87, but the chemical process they employed is now obsolete. All aluminum sold in the market is now made by the aid of electricity. The largest factory is at Neuhausen, in Switzerland. It is capable of turning out 1,000 tons a year. The second largest is in the south of France. It turns out about 600 tons. But a company has now been formed in England, and as the soldering difficulty seems to be overcome, the metal will sell."

Slack in His Geography.

A curious incident regarding a strait occurred during the Russian war. It would have been ludicrous, if anything can be ludicrous connected with war. Commodore Elliott was blockading a Russian squadron in the Gulf of Saghalin, on the east coast of Siberia. Thinking he had the Russians in a cul de sac, he complacently waited for them to come out, as the water was too shallow for him to attack them. As the enemy did not come out, he sent in to investigate, and found, to his astonishment, that Russians and ships had vanished. While he had been waiting for them in the south they had quietly slipped cut by the north, teaching both him and the British Government a rather severe lesson in geography, as it had been thought that Saghalin was an isthmus; and they were totally unaware of a narrow channel leading from the gulf to the Sea of Okhotsk.—New York Advertiser.

Bibbler—"I see that Uncle Sam wants money." Scribbler—"There are others."—Philadelphia Inquirer.

Never take any one's word when you can get a contract.

KANSAS STATE NEWS.

Ellsworth has paid off \$45,000 of her bonds this year.

The women of Atchison registered in large numbers to be able to vote at the city election.

The G. A. R. post of Hiawatha has secured Bernard Kelly for an address Memorial day.

Senator Lucien Baker has accepted an invitation to deliver a Memorial day address at Wichita.

Hiawatha World: The value of property exchanges in Brown county is from \$25,000 to \$75,000 a week.

Alma, with a population of 650, claims to lay it over any town of its size in the abundance of its musical talent.

The government work on the river in the vicinity of Atchison is finished. About \$25,000 in additional will be spent by the railroads in completing the job.

The Harper creamery has fifty-three regular customers who receive nearly \$400 a month. Payment is now made for the quality of milk instead of quantity.

Oskaloosa Independent: J. B. Wheeler brought a burr oak log to town Tuesday which was 42 inches in diameter and weighed 5,600 pounds. It is to be sawed up into bridge timber.

Ulysses Republican: The South Fork Ditch company has its ditch nearly completed. The land under this ditch will be the most valuable in the southwestern part of the state, south of the Arkansas river.

A Winfield man has discovered an elm tree on Dutch Creek, Cowley county, that measures twenty-eight feet in circumference three feet from the ground and at a height of forty feet is fully six feet in diameter.

Capital: The Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance company obtained a decree of foreclosure from Judge Thomas in the United States district court in the sum of \$2,670. The judgment was against the First African Methodist Episcopal church of Kansas City, Kan.

The Pittsburg Industrial company with a capitalization of \$100,000 has been chartered. The directors of the company announce that it is their intention to engage in securing and promoting manufacturing in that city. Metal, glassware, leather and textile factories are mentioned in the list of enterprises that the directors will undertake to establish in Pittsburg.

Hiawatha World: Sheriff Brown says he is not overworked at present. He has served but one summons since the first of the year. Not over a dozen cases have been filed with the district clerk since January 1st, and the amount involved in each case is small. District Clerk Mitchell says the people are preparing for the end of the world and don't want to be tangled up in law suits.

From Humboldt: Oil well No. 5, of this vicinity, has been "shot" by the McCready Brothers under the supervision of Guffey and Galey. Thirty-two quarts of nitro-glycerine were exploded in the oil sand and as the result of the concussion a large quantity of oil was thrown from the well. The owners of the well are well pleased with the quantity and quality of the oil and are now perfecting apparatuses to pump the oil into tanks.

A year ago a colony of sixty Northwestern Kansas people packed up their effects and moved to Edmonton, in the province of Alberta, B. C., where, it is said, they get their land free. They are evidently satisfied for another colony from the same section will leave this week to join their friends in the far North. The second movement will consist of eighteen cars of effects and three coaches of colonists. Edmonton is about 300 miles north of the northern boundary of the United States. It is one of the farthest points north reached by rail. The colonists who are going there are French people who located in Kansas many years ago. They have been doing well, but are of a roving disposition.

STOCK AND FARM.

The herd law has been re-established in Morton county.

The Sherman county Farmers institute has elected the following officers for the coming year: John Bray, president; W. A. Umbarger, secretary; J. F. Kimmel, treasurer.

Hiawatha World: A. N. Raley says on account of the open winter, therefore the wood tender, the fifteen below zero freeze killed a large per cent of the peach buds, but there are left a sufficient number green to make a fair crop. Cherries, apples and berries are not damaged.

Fort Scott Monitor: From the best information obtained from dealers it appears that farmers in the vicinity of Fort Scott have realized \$25,000 from the cane seed raised last year. No other crop produced in Bourbon county yielded so large a profit from so small an investment. This income was brought to the farmers by the sugar works, which paid nearly \$20,000 for sorghum. Everybody in this neighborhood is interested in this industry. It brings money to all.

A Meade county farmer has fattened his hogs on an exclusive feed of sugar beets. He will put in a big crop of beets this spring.

While returning from a trip to one of his farms Isaiah Nicholson, of Lawrence, met with an accident that caused the loss of his left hand. He had arrived home and was taking a shot gun out of the buggy, having taken it along because of the game he had seen along the road, when his horse started and the gun was discharged, the load going through Mr. Nicholson's hand and making amputation necessary.

North Topeka item: T. M. James is adding 60 acres to his apple orchard on Indian creek, and five acres to an experimental orchard near town, on the extension of Kansas avenue.

The failure of crops last year has had a disastrous effect upon the local freight business in Kansas, and stations which have sent away car loads of freight daily, now send none at all. That is why several stations have recently been abandoned on the Englewood line of the Santa Fe and other feeders of the Santa Fe. The officers of the road say that there is not enough business at the stations to justify the expense of agents, and so they were withdrawn and the station houses are closed. It is said that the stations abandoned will not be permanently kept off the time card, but if the western part of the state succeeds in producing a crop this season, they will again be open for business.

A remarkable religious revival closed in Lawrence after continuous meetings for several weeks. It was conducted by State Evangelist Beasley, of Topeka. The meetings have been going on night and day, and so large have been the crowds that not nearly all could get inside the building. The number of conversions has been over 200. A great many of the "rounders" and worthless characters have been affected, and have for the time, at least, mended their ways, so that there is not the amount of petty crime as in past winters. Spurred by the example at the one church, every other colored church in the city has been holding protracted meetings and securing converts. The baptism of the new converts will take place in the Kaw river in April or early in May.

KANSAS RAILROADING.

Capital: The Santa Fe shops in this city have just completed two of the most attractive parlor cars that have been constructed for western roads in many years. The cars were made from dining cars, of which the Santa Fe has a greater number than are now in use. The work on the new cars was done under the supervision and direction of John Player, superintendent of machinery of the Santa Fe. The general arrangement, finish and decoration are fully equal to anything that has been turned out by the Pullman company. The work was all done in Topeka. The cars are to be used on the Southern California, which is a branch of the Santa Fe system.

KANSAS CHURCH AFFAIRS.

From Newton: The Mennonites of Harvey county have a successful mutual insurance company.

Preparations are already under way for the state convention of the Y. P. S. C. E., which will meet at Wichita May 23-26.

In Robinson there were fifty conversions during the late protracted meeting at the U. B. church. Thirty-four joined the church.

Hiawatha World: Rev. J. Haldeman, of Kennesaw, Neb., has been appointed to the charge of the Albright Evangelical church here.

The question of a successor to Bishop Thomas cannot be settled for at least two months after the death of the bishop. The bishop will be chosen by the representatives of the diocese met in convention. The regular session will be in September, but this would necessitate a considerable delay, so a special convention has been called for May 12, the earliest time possible under the rules. There is no restriction as to choice; the delegates may choose anyone in the diocese or out of it. During the interval, the chief power of control of the church lies in the standing committee of the diocese, of which Dr. Beatty, of Newton, is president. Were Kansas a missionary diocese or one supported by the national church the new bishop would be elected by the conclave of bishops, but as it is self-supporting, it is also self-governing.

From Lindsborg: The Swedish Lutherans held their annual conference here. Twenty-five years ago the Swedish Lutheran work west of the Mississippi was organized in Lawrence, Kan., by two clergymen, Rev. S. G. Larson, now of Pueblo, Col., and Rev. A. W. Dahlsten, now of Windom, Kan., and a few lay delegates. The work has grown since then until to-day the Augustana synod has the Kansas conference, the Nebraska conference, the California conference, the Columbia conference and the Utah district in that territory. The number of congregations is 140 and the total membership nearly 25,000. The annual contributions for church and benevolent purposes amount to \$150,000. The orphan's home at Mariadahl received a new constitution. It is in a prosperous condition and furnishes home and education to thirty-five orphans. It owns 300 acres of valuable lands, a fine residence building, school house, barns, granaries, etc. Mr. Berg is its popular superintendent. The conference takes a great deal of pride in its college and is anxious to support it as liberally as possible. The property is already worth fully \$75,000 above all incumbrances. Ten thousand dollars were reported as subscribed during the past year for the wiping out of the building fund indebtedness.

The contract has been let for the building of a Christian church at Troy.

Capital: The Methodist church of Dover has a membership of sixty and raised \$1,300 last year.

Seven members of the Christian church at Geneseo, Rice county, were expelled because they were members of secret organizations.

A Robinson church has a sign up cautioning people not to use tobacco while in church. Fine or imprisonment is the punishment for doing so.